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## **Editorial: Will GOP tap Trump?**

For decades, the Republican Party has picked its presidential candidates in much the same way. It's all about who has paid their dues and had patiently waited their turn. (Think: Bob Dole, John McCain and Mitt Romney.) Come Election Day those bets have failed to pay off, as Democrats have won five of the past six popular votes. This time around, though, an increasingly vocal faction of the party is tired of these losing, middle-of-the-road, establishment candidates.

Enter: The Donald.

In poll after poll, Donald Trump has shot to the top of a crowded 2016 GOP presidential field. He is a cartoon character who has garnered much of his appeal based on his embodiment of the unabated id of the most reactionary pockets of the party. Antics that would sink a meeker candidate have only served to enliven his base. A few choice quotes:

"The U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else's problems. And these aren't the best and the finest. When Mexico

sends its people, they're not sending their best ... they're sending people that have lots of problems ... they're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people." – June 16, at his campaign announcement event at Trump Tower in New York City

"[John McCain is] not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured." – July 18, Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa

"[Sen. Lindsey Graham] said, 'Can you mention my name?' I say, 'Yes I will.' And he gave me his number. And I found the card. I wrote the number down. I don't know if it's the right number. Let's try it." – Tuesday, speech at a rally in South Carolina (before he read Graham's cellphone number into the microphone)

The Republican establishment is none too pleased with this rhetoric, which is why Trump is now hinting he may go it alone.

"The [Republican National Committee] has not been supportive," he told The Hill Thursday, on mulling a third-party run. "They were always supportive when I was a contributor. I was their fair-haired boy. The RNC has been, I think, very foolish. ... I'll have to see how

I'm being treated by the Republicans. Absolutely, if they're not fair, that would be a factor."

Trump is a ridiculous person. His campaign, such as it is, mostly hype. But with this many supporters, you ignore it at your own peril.